

Writing Your Body Paragraphs (Legacy Research Paper)

Your body paragraphs are an extension of your thesis statement. Therefore, it's imperative that the topics of your body paragraph follow the order of the subtopics you introduced in your thesis statement. For example:

Sample thesis statement:

Bethany Hamilton had many inspirations and motivations that influenced her, she struggled through many adversities, yet she achieved many great accomplishments that will contribute to her legacy.

Necessary order of body paragraph topics based on that thesis:

- (1) Inspirations & motivations that inspired her
- (2) Adversities she struggled through
- (3) The great accomplishment that contribute to her legacy.

YOUR TOPIC SENTENCES:

Begin each paragraph with a topic sentence that directly reflects one of your thesis subtopics.

The first line of your first body paragraph should include the use of the word “**inspirations**” (or a variation of that word).

The first line of your second body paragraph should include the use of the word “**adversities**” (or a variation of that word).

The first line of your third body paragraph should include the use of the word “**accomplishments**” (or a variation of that word).

YOUR TRANSITIONAL WORDS, PHRASES & SENTENCES:

To help you effectively move from one example, idea, or subtopic to another without confusing your readers, you need to use transitional words. There are many to choose from. It's up to you to choose the one(s) that best match what you're trying to say, and to use them correctly.

YOUR SUMMARY SENTENCES:

Conclude or “wrap-up” each body paragraph with a sentence that summarizes your major point of that paragraph and (ideally) transitions into the next paragraph.

For example, the summary sentence at the end of your first body paragraph would ideally include the use of the word “**inspirations**” (to summarize what you just discussed) AND also include the use of the word “**adversities**” (to transition or lead into the second body paragraph).

The summary sentence at the end of your second body paragraph would ideally include the use of the word “**adversities**” or “**struggles**” (to summarize what you just discussed) AND also include the use of the word “**impacts**” or “**accomplishments**” (to transition or lead into the second body paragraph).

The summary sentence at the end of your third body paragraph would ideally include the use of the word “**impacts**” or “**accomplishments**” (to summarize what you just discussed).